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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/989,912	11/19/2001	Avi Penner	262/229	1805
23639	7590	07/20/2005	EXAMINER	
BINGHAM, MCCUTCHEN LLP THREE EMBARCADERO CENTER 18 FLOOR SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111-4067			LAYNO, CARL HERNANDZ	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3762	

DATE MAILED: 07/20/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/989,912

Applicant(s)

PENNER ET AL.

Examiner

Carl H. Layno

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 June 2005.
2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-38 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 15-38 is/are rejected.
7) ☒ Claim(s) 2-14 is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11 March 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6/15/05.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after allowance or after an Office action under *Ex Parte Quayle*, 25 USPQ 74, 453 O.G. 213 (Comm'r Pat. 1935). Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, prosecution in this application has been reopened pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on June 15, 2005 has been entered.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's Information Disclosure Statement (PTO-1449) which was received by the Office on June 15, 2005.

Drawings

3. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the "acoustic switch" of claims 15 and 27, if located on the external communications apparatus, must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet,

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even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. Upon further review of applicant's amendments to claims 15 and 27 on June 21, 2004, the Examiner deems the following new rejections to be appropriate.

5. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

6. Claims 15-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter, which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant

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art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Independent claims 15 and 27, as amended, recite the use of an “acoustic switch” as part of an externally located communications/control device, which communicates with a body implant. Upon further review of the specification, however, the Examiner could find no support for an “acoustic switch” as an element of the externally located “communications device”, rather, the “acoustic switch”, according to the specification, was recited as being part of the body implanted device. To overcome this rejection, the claims should be modified to clarify that the “acoustic switch” is part of the implant, not the external communications apparatus. Lacking any initial description in the specification, the recitation of an “acoustic switch” as part of the external communications apparatus is considered to be “new matter” and cannot be entered in the case.

Claims 16-26 and 28-38 are also rejected since they depend from rejected base claims 15 and 27.

The Examiner invites the applicant to discuss the amended language of claims 15 and 27 over the telephone. The Examiner’s new number is (571) 272-4949.

7. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

8. Claims 15-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

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Claims 15 and 27, as written, are indefinite and confusing in that it is somewhat unclear whether the “acoustic switch” and the other positively recited elements in the claim are part of an “implant” or part of an external apparatus, which communicates with the implant. The 35 U.S.C. 112 1st paragraph rejection (above) and drawing objection (above) were generated for the latter case.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen et al ‘530 in view of Ohara ‘954 (both Applicant’s prior art).

The Chen et al ‘530 patent, cited by the applicant as prior art, describes an implantable cardiac pacer (Fig.1) comprising a power source C₁, an externally controlled switch S₁, and electrical circuitry (not numbered) capable of performing either in a test mode or a pacing mode depending upon an activation signal from an external programmer (Fig.6). The activation signal closes switch S₁ to permit energy from the power source to activate the electrical circuits of the pacer. Switch S₁ is defined as being a conventional magnetically activated Reed relay switch (col.7, lines 3-4).

The Ohara ‘954 patent, also cited as prior art by the applicant, describes a pacemaker communications system wherein one embodiment (Fig.6-1) recites the use of an externally

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located energy supply device 1,11 which communicates with an implanted pacer 2,12 acoustically through the use of sound wave transmission and reception devices 72,73, respectively. Devices 72 and 73 perform the function of applicant's claimed first and second transducers, since they also convert sound signals into electric energy and vice versa.

To have specified that the external programmer and implanted pacer of Chen et al communicate acoustically via sound wave transducers, in the manner described by Ohara, versus magnetically, would have been an obvious substitution to one of ordinary skill since Chen et al teaches that switch S1 may be controlled not only magnetically, but alternatively, acoustically (col.7, lines 5-6).

Allowable Subject Matter

11. Claims 2-14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

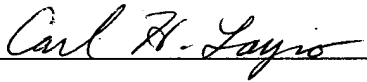
Conclusion

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carl H. Layno whose telephone number is (571) 272-4949. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Thursday from 9 AM to 6 PM and every other Friday between 9AM and 5PM. A voice mail or E-mail message (carl.layno@uspto.gov) may be left if desired.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Angela Sykes, can be reached on (571) 272-4955. All faxed communications should be sent to the Office's Official FAX number (571) 273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to Legal Instruments Examiner (LIE) Brenda Webb whose telephone number is (571) 272-4399.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Carl H. Layno", is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

CARL LAYNO
PRIMARY EXAMINER

CHL

7/18/2005